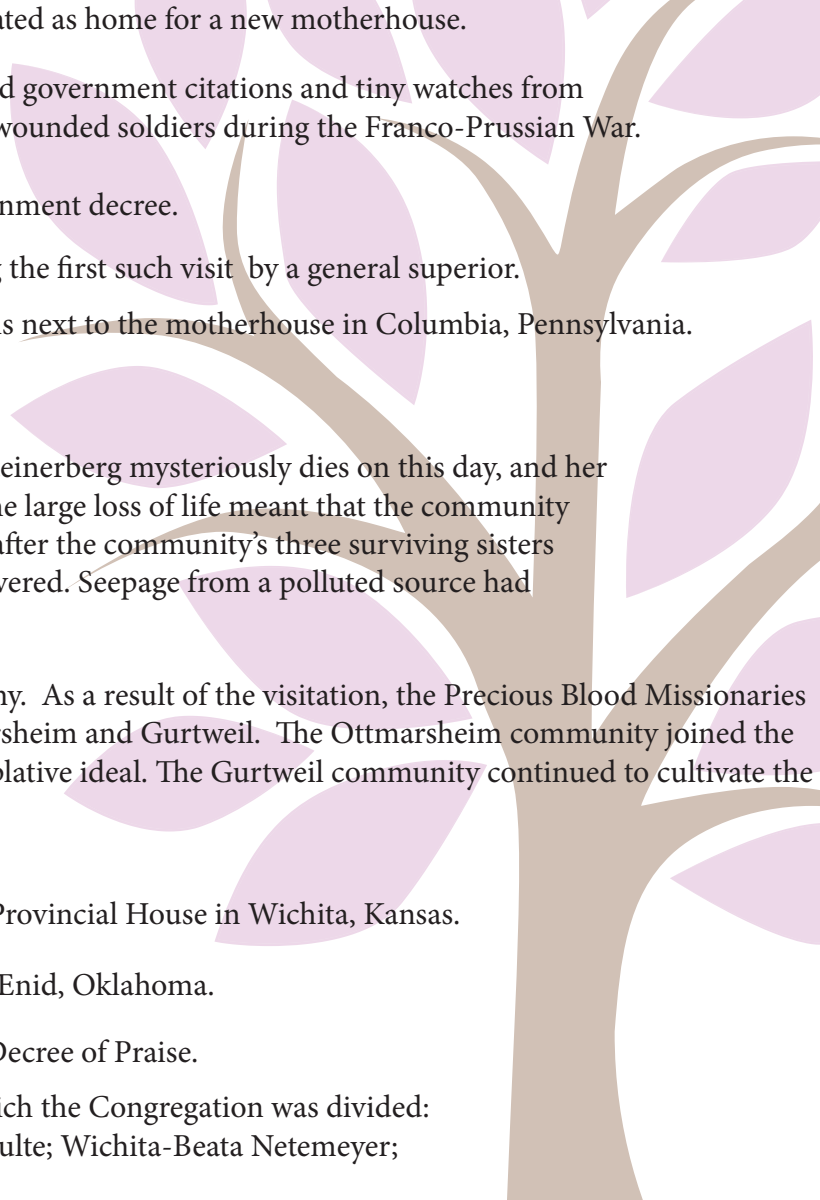


Important Dates in May

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- 3 1925 Quay Farm in Columbia, Pennsylvania is dedicated as home for a new motherhouse.
 - 6 1871 Mother Clementine and six other sisters received government citations and tiny watches from Countess Louise of Baden for nursing sick and wounded soldiers during the Franco-Prussian War.
 - 9 1848 Sisters are ordered to leave Steinerberg by government decree.
 - 15 1948 Mother Esther Graziosi visits America, marking the first such visit by a general superior.
 - 15 1964 Marian Hall Residence and Retreat Center opens next to the motherhouse in Columbia, Pennsylvania.
 - 18 2003 Maria De Mattias is canonized in Rome, Italy.
 - 19 1846 A Sister in the Precious Blood Community in Steinerberg mysteriously dies on this day, and her death would be followed by that of 26 others. The large loss of life meant that the community remained in Steinerberg only 3 1/2 years. Only after the community's three surviving sisters migrated to Alsace was the cause of death discovered. Seepage from a polluted source had contaminated the convent well.
 - 23 1860 Mother Celestine Maier visits Gurtweil, Germany. As a result of the visitation, the Precious Blood Missionaries were asked to visit communities in both Ottmarsheim and Gurtweil. The Ottmarsheim community joined the Benedictine community and kept their contemplative ideal. The Gurtweil community continued to cultivate the apostolic zeal in the spirit of Maria De Mattias.
 - 24 1980 Sisters approve a new constitution.
 - 25 1976 The Midbar Center of Spirituality opens in the Provincial House in Wichita, Kansas.
 - 30 1937 Adorers in Wichita, Kansas, acquire hospital in Enid, Oklahoma.
 - 30 1855 The Institute of Adorers receives the Pontifical Decree of Praise.
 - 31 1929 Provincials are appointed for provinces into which the Congregation was divided: Columbia-Engelberta Mueller; Ruma-Stella Schulte; Wichita-Beata Netemeyer; Schaan-Paulina Schneeberger.

May 19, 1846 -- Although the Precious Blood Community remained in Steinerberg, Switzerland, only three and a half years, 27 sisters died there. Priests had exhorted the Sisters to take care of their health. One priest referred to the community as “an institution for the dying.” It was not until long after the Sisters had migrated to Alsace that the cause of the great mortality among the religious was discovered. Seepage from a “polluted source” had entered the convent well and poisoned those who drank from it. After the Sisters had left, several members of the house owner’s family also died. After a long search, the source of contamination was located. The account of each Sister’s death was carefully recorded in the diary. These accounts indicate the joy with which the early members of our congregation embraced life after death. Many of them sang praises to God with their last breath.

May 9, 1848 -- Although the Steinerberg community was affiliated with the previously established congregation of Maria De Mattias in Italy and the Rev. Karl Rolfus had paid a “head tax” for each Sister, the government of Schwyz, Switzerland, issued a decree expelling the sisters. The Bishop of Chur, Kaspar del Karl, protested the civil act, but on June 3, 1848, the convent was forcibly restricted. Mother Theresa Weber died on the way to Alsace and several other Sisters died soon after they arrived there as a result of being forced to leave when they were too ill to travel.

May 30, 1855 – The Holy See granted “decretum laudis” or ‘decree of praise’ to the Congregation of the Adorers of the Most Precious Blood. The official measure grants institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life recognition of ecclesiastical institution of pontifical right, subject to the authority of the Holy See.

May 23, 1860 -- When Mother Celestine Maier visited Gurtweil, Germany on this day, she was disturbed by the breadth of Sisters’ involvement in apostolic activity and how community life was so different there compared to the contemplative-oriented community of Ottmarsheim. Although, according to the Rule of Blessed Maria De Mattias, the chief work of the congregation was the Christian education of youth, the superior believed that Rev. Herman Kessler had over-expanded the works of the institute at Gurtweil. He had accepted postulants and was preparing them, himself, for active ministry. As a result of the visitation, the Precious Blood Missionaries were asked to visit both Ottmarsheim and Gurtweil in order to determine what steps were to be taken. Eventually the Ottmarsheim community reverted to the contemplative ideal, joining a Benedictine community located in Einsiedeln in a spiritual bond, and the Gurtweil community continued to cultivate the apostolic zeal contained in the spirit of Blessed Maria De Mattias and defined in her Rule.

May 6, 1871 -- Mother Clementine and six other Sisters offered their services for nursing sick and wounded soldiers at war and were rewarded with citations from the government and tiny silver watches from the Countess Louise of Baden. Mother Clementine’s emblem of merit is preserved in Wichita, Kansas.